

Solid Waste Interjurisdictional Technical Staff Work Group
DRAFT September 5, 2007
King Street Center

Meeting Attendees:

City Staff:

Sharon Hlavka – City of Auburn
Kathleen Edman – City of Auburn
Rob VanOrsow – City of Federal Way
John MacGillivray – City of Kirkland
Stacey Breskin-Auer – City of Redmond
Jerallyn Roetemeyer – City of Redmond
Desmond Machuca, City of SeaTac

County Staff:

Jane Gateley, SWD
Shirley Jurgensen, SWD
Sandra Matteson, SWD
Bill Reed – SWD
Thea Severn – SWD
Diane Yates – SWD
Mike Reed – King County Council staff

I. Review Agenda and Minutes

Everyone present introduced themselves.

Sharon Hlavka volunteered to give the ITSG update at the September MSWMAC meeting.

The draft June meeting notes were unanimously approved.

II. SWD Updates

Intergovernmental Relations Liaison Diane Yates announced that Bob Tocarciuc has left the division. Thea Severn will be the interim lead planner for the Comp Plan update.

Severn reported that the division's supplemental budget request for funds to purchase properties adjacent to the Factoria Transfer Station is before the Capital Budget Committee today.

Severn also announced that the transfer station in Shoreline will be renamed the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station at the City of Shoreline's request. The station is scheduled to reopen in early 2008.

III. Transfer System: Rural Level of Service: Presentation and Discussion

Severn presented the Transfer System Rural Level of Service, Part II. Part I was presented at the June ITSG meeting. Today's presentations can be viewed at:

http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrc/swd/Level_of_service.zip,

To download the presentations, click on the link and select "Save" (NOT "Open") to save the zip file to your own machine and then open the file locally:

In response to a question about which transfer facility did not contain a scalehouse, Severn responded that the Skykomish Drop Box does not have a scalehouse. Payment is made either with a prepaid card or debit/credit card.

IV. Self Haul Level of Service: Presentation and Discussion

The presentation can be viewed at the link above.

The group commented on the difference in how independent haulers, such as the Got Junk companies, are classified between county code and the division's accounting system. Severn indicated that one reason for the difference is that the independent haulers do not have charge accounts with the division, as do the commercial haulers, and are therefore classified as cash customers, or self haulers.

Mike Reed, King County Council central staff, asked if self haulers may be paying a higher per ton cost than customers that are weighed in. Severn said that about 39 percent bring in less than the maximum weight of 320 lbs allowed under the minimum fee. On the issue of whether self haulers are subsidized, she said there are many variables to consider including how much garbage they bring to the station, which station they use, and whether they're coming in on a weekday or weekend, to name a few, that would determine how much each customer is paying relative to the cost to serve them.

Stacey Breskin-Auer, City of Redmond, asked if the self hauler survey results were available by area. Severn said they are available by transfer station. The division will provide that information to the members.

In response to a question about special collection events, Severn said that the total of all recyclables collected at these events in 2006 was 3,000 tons. The group agreed that the tons collected were low compared to the amount of time and money it took to organize the events. It was also agreed, however, that these events are popular with the public.

Reed asked if the 6,000 tons of recyclable materials collected at the transfer stations included material culled from the garbage. Severn said that the division currently does not separate recyclable materials from garbage brought to the facilities. She said it is estimated that 60 percent of what is thrown away can be recycled.

The group discussed the decision about which recyclables will be accepted at the transfer station in Shoreline when it reopens next year. In response to questions, Severn discussed the division's collaboration with the northend cities to determine what materials to collect at the station on an interim basis until more long-term decisions are made. Since the Shoreline station will be opening soon, decisions about what recyclables to collect needed to be made before in-depth discussions could be completed with ITSG and MSWMAC. The success of collection programs for new materials, such as fluorescents, will be monitored to help the division and ITSG/MSWMAC determine whether to pursue uniform collection of recyclables at the stations or tailor the materials collected to individual service areas. This discussion and decisions made will be folded into the next Comp Plan. Severn also discussed plans for a pilot project at the new station that will divert reusable building materials from disposal.

Sharon Hlavka, City of Auburn, asked if transfer station services need to be uniform or if there can be different services from station to station. Severn said that is one of the questions to consider during the planning process.

Breskin-Auer said it's a good idea to have flexibility at the stations to respond to future recycling needs. But it also creates problems when programs aren't consistent from

jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Severn said that the new stations are being designed with the flexibility to respond to changing technologies and markets for recyclable materials.

In response to a question about transfer stations functioning as materials recovery facilities, Severn said the division is looking at removing recyclables from the garbage brought to the facilities. The division is not, however, looking at accepting loads of recyclable materials for processing.

Reed suggested the division look at recycling programs in Europe where recycling rates are higher than in King County due to collection of source-separated materials, as opposed to commingled collection. He said that it might also be helpful to look at recycling programs in other parts of the country to determine if recycling rates are higher when materials are collected at the curb or at transfer stations.

Interest was expressed in seeing the revenue numbers for each recyclable material accepted at the transfer stations as well as in the costs of handling them.

Severn asked ITSG members to let her know if they had any additions to the list of considerations.

Next Step:

The next ITSG meeting is scheduled for September 26th.